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EPA COMMUNITY MEETING FOR THE
SITE ACTIVITIES UPDATE
WEST COUNTY ROAD 112
MIDLAND, MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS
HELD APRIL 12, 2011
MIDLAND CENTER, MIDLAND, TEXAS

1 MR. MALOTT: Thanks for coming out. My
2 name is Vincent Malott. I am with the EPA out of
3 Dallas. I won't use the microphone. I think my voice
4 will carry loud enough in the room here. If it does
5 not, let me know and I will speak a little louder.

6 The reason we're here is for the West
7 County Road 112 Groundwater Superfund Site, which was
8 just proposed last year in 2010, and it was made final
9 in March of this year.

10 Before we start the proceedings, Linda
11 will address some of the issues as far as translation.

12 (INTERPRETER SPEAKING)

13 MR. MALOTT: Some of these images, I just
14 scrolled through here. They don't show up real well
15 from back there. You may not be able to see them. I'll
16 go through a short presentation to explain to you where
17 we're at, at this point. We're just starting the
18 investigation, some of the activities that we've done to
19 date. There are a series of maps that we've prepared
20 for the site, and those may not be legible. You may not
21 be able to see from back there.

22 After the presentation, questions and
23 answers, I will be happy to show them to you on the
24 laptop, if you want to see more detail of where your
25 property is or your house is. We could try and enlarge

1 some on the screen, but the resolution from this
2 projector on this screen is not all that great. So
3 there's going to be some limitations, but I will be
4 happy to stay here as long as necessary. And I believe
5 we have the room until 8:00, maybe a little bit longer.
6 So my time is your time.

7 We also have representatives from the
8 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. If you have
9 questions regarding the filtration systems, the sampling
10 performance of those systems, they are available to talk
11 with you, as well.

12 If you have health questions regarding
13 your groundwater, how it may have impacted your health
14 or your other concerns, we have representatives from the
15 Texas Department of Health Services, and they're here,
16 as well.

17 So after the presentation and questions
18 and answers, feel free to talk with them. They're the
19 folks in the blue shirts, and they will be happy to help
20 you.

21 I am a geologist by training. I have been
22 with the EPA for about 24 years. I have been a project
23 manager for Superfund sites since 1997. Before that, I
24 have been doing other corrective action sites for the
25 EPA.

1 Two sites were actually added to Midland
2 County. These are Federal Superfund sites. One is the
3 Midessa site, which is located west of the airport.
4 It's this red -- or this purple square area down here
5 close to the Midessa RV Park. And then the West County
6 Road site is up here to the northeast, about -- a little
7 under nine miles apart.

8 EPA is going to be investigating both of
9 these sites on essentially the same timeline and the
10 same path. For us, it's a cost efficiency. Both of
11 these are funneling sites; that is, the EPA is paying a
12 hundred percent of the cost of the investigation and
13 sampling.

14 So when we have contractors,
15 subcontractors doing work on one project, they can
16 transition to the other site and work on ours, as well.
17 However, what we're here for tonight is the West County
18 Road 112 site.

19 So here is a presentation outline, some of
20 the topics that I'm going to cover tonight. We're not
21 limited to this, but as far as the information that I
22 have, I'll talk about this first. I'll be happy to
23 answer other questions, or if there's other issues that
24 need to be clarified.

25 And as we go along, if we develop more

1 information, we will be expanding the data, the maps,
2 the presentation, to try to provide more answers. We
3 are limited to the data that we have on-hand. And that
4 is the purpose of the investigation out here at the site
5 is to collect more data.

6 So we'll start with the existing chromium
7 standard. Essentially, what we're working with at this
8 point, we are dealing with a chromium standard under the
9 Safe Drinking Water Act, which is 100 micrograms per
10 liter. That's what we see commonly referred to in
11 regards to the groundwater plume out at the site.
12 That's what, at this point, we are using to define what
13 is above an action level for us regarding filtration
14 systems or even at this point, remediation; however,
15 we're not at that point for remediation.

16 We are coming out with a new toxicological
17 assessment of hexavalent chromium that will be looking
18 at the infiltration effects from the hexavalent chromium
19 and how this impacts. Obviously, childrens' health will
20 be a primary factor in assessing any kind of new
21 standard. I do not have a timeline at this point of
22 when that standard may change.

23 The only information that I'm able to gain
24 at this point is that a draft assessment will be
25 available by the end of the year. From there, as they

1 finalize that data, I will be able to use it as a risk
2 assessment to determine if a lower standard cleanup will
3 be available besides the 100 micrograms.

4 RESIDENT: Is that -- now, your total
5 chromium standards, is that just hexavalent chromium or
6 is that total?

7 MR. MALOTT: That's total, and regardless
8 of whether it's trivalent or hexavalent. And let me go
9 ahead -- we have already started looking at the issue of
10 hexavalent and trivalent in the samples that we have
11 collected to date. What we find is that for the most
12 part, 95 percent or so of the total chromium is
13 hexavalent chromium. We will continue to assess the
14 ratio between trivalent and hexavalent. So for us, it
15 essentially works out to be mostly hexavalent.

16 RESIDENT: So that's 95 percent is what we
17 can go on, because while we're waiting for the EPA's
18 test results for the last four months, we had our -- we
19 privately drew ours, and it was substantially different
20 than what the EPA got. Now, I got the other one, but it
21 was substantially different. So is your test results
22 that you just gave me last week, is that a total
23 chromium?

24 MR. MALOTT: That is a total chromium. We
25 ran certain wells to see what kind of a range we would

1 have on high and low concentrations. Most of ours are
2 low concentrations in comparison, but we saw, for the
3 most part, most of it is composed of hexavalent
4 chromium.

5 Now, the test for hexavalent and total
6 chromium is different. And the holding times are
7 different. And for us, analyzing for total chromium is
8 a method that we use for comparison for a lot of sites.
9 But knowing that most of the contamination is
10 hexavalent, you know, that's something that we can use
11 data to move along. As we need to define this for a
12 risk assessment, then we can run that separate analysis.

13 But for the most part, we will be running
14 total chromium as a way to compare. That is what the
15 drinking water standard is based on is total chromium.

16 RESIDENT: But right now, you guys are
17 going out in the field, are you not -- correct me if I'm
18 wrong, please. Are you drawing a heavy metal sample on
19 some wells and then some wells you're drawing both heavy
20 metal and hexavalent?

21 MR. MALOTT: On this same -- on this
22 sampling we are doing --

23 RESIDENT: On this sampling this week.

24 MR. MALOTT: Only totals.

25 RESIDENT: How come there was two bottles

1 coming out of one well and only one bottle coming out of
2 the well?

3 MR. MALOTT: We can do duplicates.

4 RESIDENT: One was little and one was big.
5 I was told the big one was heavy metals and the little
6 one was hexavalent chromium.

7 MR. MALOTT: We did that on the last
8 sample, the one in November. We drew a certain number
9 of wells just to see what kind of hexavalent ratio we
10 had for those wells.

11 RESIDENT: You just did it on the sampling
12 yesterday.

13 MR. MALOTT: Luis, do we have -- oh, we do
14 have some hex?

15 MR. LUIS VEGA: We are doing about
16 25 percent.

17 RESIDENT: I was wondering whose Ouija
18 board you were seeing to determine where this plume is
19 going.

20 MR. MALOTT: The plume is on total, not
21 hexavalent.

22 RESIDENT: And don't apologize for the
23 quality of that slide, because I had to leave my
24 magnifying glass at home because it was embarrassing.

25 MR. MALOTT: Because of the size of the

1 area, it is difficult to see on that figure, especially
2 roads.

3 So the sampling events that we had, the
4 one that we did on November 29th, the one that's ongoing
5 this week, we expect that by -- we have a 21-day
6 turn-around time for the samples, so the 21-day clock
7 starts at the end of this week. So essentially three
8 weeks after this week, we'll have the draft results that
9 we'll share with TCEQ. So if any wells go over the
10 drinking water limit, we'll share that data as soon as
11 we receive it, so that we can then assess whether the
12 filtration system needs to be installed.

13 It takes our lab about two weeks to do
14 validation on the data and make it final, make sure
15 there are no errors. Then at that point, we will get it
16 mailed out. We were slow in getting this data sent out.
17 I apologize for that, but we made some corrections on
18 our database. I have already heard from some people
19 here who received their letters, and I will discuss that
20 on the next couple of slides.

21 But we will do a better job as far as
22 getting that data out to you quicker, now that we've got
23 some issues resolved in our database, make sure
24 addresses are correct and getting those letters. So we
25 are changing some formats for that.

1 Our next sampling event, site-wise, is
2 August. The State also has a sampling event planned in
3 May for the filtration systems, and we will be
4 collecting samples from those wells, to start seeing
5 what kind of high concentration and what kinds of
6 changes we've had in previous years.

7 So this is the map with poor quality that
8 people cannot see because it's such a large area, and we
9 will have to change the format in order to make this a
10 little more legible.

11 Maybe we can only show the bottom portion
12 of the map in the large scale. That might assist, that
13 way people can see where their properties are in
14 relation to the plume. We tried to show the entire area
15 on that figure, and on an 8-1/2 by 11, it is difficult,
16 but we're trying to share the data on the form.

17 (Inaudible question from public)

18 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Can you speak
19 up louder, please?

20 MR. MALOTT: I'm sorry. We also have a
21 court reporter here present, and the reason is because
22 we wanted to capture all the comments so that we could
23 do a question/answer --

24 RESIDENT: I would just like to know why
25 this isn't on our site where we can go see the EPA.

1 MR. MALOTT: We've got maps on our site.
2 And now this is the latest one, and I don't recall right
3 now whether that map is the same. We do have other data
4 that's on there, but this will be posted on there for
5 the next update. So you'll have that as a PDF file,
6 which is larger.

7 RESIDENT: Yeah, I just went to the site a
8 couple of days ago and there -- it wasn't there.

9 MR. MALOTT: On the Region 6 web site or
10 the national?

11 RESIDENT: Our specific site, the site for
12 the e-mail.

13 MR. MALOTT: The West County Road site had
14 been dropped off the status study sites for a couple of
15 months. I'm not sure why. They moved our internet site
16 around a little bit. We will -- I will go back and
17 check on that and make sure it gets posted.

18 RESIDENT: Yeah, I couldn't find it off
19 your site by the project when I was looking for it on
20 the update, but I wanted to try to see this map and the
21 quality there, and we want to see this map before we can
22 see our test results.

23 MR. MALOTT: The fact sheet that we sent
24 out -- and again, I will explain, the results we are
25 trying to get captured in a letter that shows the ranges

1 of concentration, so this next one will come out sooner
2 so you'll have that about the same time or before the
3 map.

4 (Reporter admonition to speak up)

5 MR. MALOTT: Yes. So the sample result
6 letter that went out that's causing confusion at this
7 point, what we showed is the metals -- commonly detected
8 metals in the samples for -- collected from the private
9 wells, what I tried to show here is the ranges and
10 concentrations. That's not specific for your well, but
11 for all the samples that were collected.

12 And then on the far right column was the
13 drinking water standard. And so people have had
14 questions as to what does that data mean for their well?
15 And in this case, it was just to give a broader
16 background to see where your well fit in with the total
17 site.

18 And so if you looked and saw what your
19 concentration is, you can see whether you are higher or
20 lower than the range or within that range.

21 And so this is the part that you're not
22 going to be able to see, but the lab data sheet that
23 came in had a number of columns. And the ones that are
24 important is the one that has the metals listed under
25 anilite, and then the concentration here and then on the

1 far right is the well number. And so based on the
2 comments that I've received so far, basically people
3 said the letters are not useful for us; that is we don't
4 know what this means for our well, whether our well is
5 good or bad.

6 If your well had an exceedance of
7 chromium, we would have already coordinated with TCEQ as
8 far as installation of a filtration system. What we've
9 seen, based on the sample results so far, is that a
10 number of people have arsenic concentration over the
11 drinking water limit. That is a factor of the geologic
12 materials in the aquifer. In other words, that is part
13 of the background concentrations. It's not related to
14 the chromium plume. We have not seen a relationship
15 with that. We will continue to look at this though.

16 The other contaminant or metal that we saw
17 is lead. Lead is typically found in corrosion through
18 funneling in pipes, or the lead solder that's used on
19 pipes or the fixtures. Very infrequent where the lead
20 detection is above the drinking water limit. But again,
21 that's based on household use. And so we have included
22 that data, as well.

23 But we will be re-sending out these
24 letters with the data, with a better explanation so
25 people understand how that data compares to the drinking

1 water standards. Since this has not been used, we're
2 changing the format and re-send this data out. And then
3 for the sampling data that we do this month, there will
4 be sent out a -- have that in the format, as well. So
5 we'll continue to make changes and make the data useful
6 on in the year.

7 Again, this is from a distance. And the
8 quality of the image here, this was the arsenic
9 detections that we saw across the area. We saw arsenic
10 all the way down here below County Road 120, well
11 outside the plume area. We saw areas over here that
12 were well outside the chromium plume that are also
13 exceeding the drinking water limit. And it's just kind
14 of a hit-and-miss, where your well is screened and the
15 factor of well construction.

16 So far, what we have, we have been using
17 the data from past investigations by both the State and
18 other private parties, Schlumberger and Lear, using the
19 well data provided in there.

20 We are using the data from the private
21 wells to help build a plume back and see where we needed
22 to start installing monitoring wells. We've done some
23 limited geophysical logging with the US Geological
24 Survey that provides us a better profile of what the
25 aquifers are in this area. And I will show you examples

1 of that data.

2 And then we also plan to start
3 installation of our monitoring wells here probably early
4 in May. We'll use that data to start to identify our
5 source areas. This plume -- or this site was listed as
6 a groundwater plume with no identified source area. So
7 we don't have a source area or even a responsible party
8 at this point to pursue for cleanup or investigation of
9 the site. That's why it's being conducted as a
10 funneling by EPA for this area.

11 We'll also be looking at residential yards
12 as a potential exposure pathway. There, the concern is
13 the wells that have really high concentrations, do we
14 have any kind of build-up of chromium in the soil, and
15 is that another possible exposure pathway? So those
16 yards that have the highest concentrations are the ones
17 we'll be looking at to assess what kind of exposure we
18 may have from that.

19 So the data that we have so far is, we
20 have some of the chromium contamination that's been
21 detected in what's called the Lear property. They have
22 a -- quite a few wells installed in that area.

23 One of the facts that's interesting is a
24 lot of that chromium contamination, though, is
25 substantially less than what we have south of I-20. So

1 we know we have a release, but I don't know specifically
2 if the release is all coming from their property or if
3 it's coming from other adjacent properties.

4 There's another property nearby, B & W,
5 which is right across the facility. People have
6 probably heard that name. They also had a detection of
7 chromium back in the, I guess, mid to late eighties.

8 Again, I don't know specifically that the
9 release occurred on the property. So we may be looking
10 at multiple source areas here or there is maybe one
11 large source area. But that's one of the things that
12 will be as part of the investigation.

13 We also have two other trichloroethane
14 plumes. Yes, ma'am?

15 RESIDENT: When you're talking about
16 source areas, have y'all taken a look at just to the
17 west of where the old pit is? There was a company that
18 was a pipe company where that whole area is now
19 condemned. Have y'all looked at that?

20 MR. MALOTT: Well, we have not. Part of
21 it is, in this case, if you look at the chromium plume,
22 there's two water supply wells on this property here and
23 both of those are clean.

24 RESIDENT: Right.

25 MR. MALOTT: I've looked at the well

1 records for those. Those wells are screened essentially
2 across both aquifers. If there was chromium running in
3 the upper aquifer or the Ogallala, then we should have
4 had detection in those wells.

5 RESIDENT: Right.

6 MR. MALOTT: So that's kind of a
7 benchmark. And that's immediately, I believe,
8 downgradient from what you're talking about. So we'll
9 be -- we needed to find exactly where the material is
10 coming in from.

11 So the trichloroethane plume is coming in
12 on the process area, just across the upper edge of the
13 chromium plume, and just barely -- just crosses over
14 I-20 there.

15 And then we have another small plume over
16 here that's being handled through TCEQ for the Wood
17 Group here, that they're addressing separately. So
18 that's a smaller area, and that's outside our
19 investigation.

20 These other investigations, they do give
21 us existing background data, particularly groundwater
22 flow velocity. Estimates have ranged from 60 to
23 120 feet per year. If those velocities would hold true
24 for this area, then that would indicate that the
25 chromium plume, if it did originate north of I-20, is

1 very old.

2 Even if it originated south of I-20,
3 that's still a fairly old plume, as far as when the
4 release could have occurred. So one of the things we'll
5 be assessing is exactly what kind of changes to the
6 groundwater flow velocity and how did that impact the
7 distribution of the chromium. And then, of course,
8 using the existing monitoring wells to collect
9 geophysical data.

10 So this is the general flow direction that
11 we have, based on the existing data. As we install our
12 own monitoring wells, we will be filling this out and
13 adding to it.

14 And here is a geophysical log that we've
15 collected from a monitoring well. This gives us a sense
16 of the upper aquifer, which is the Ogallala. This is
17 the one that appears to transmit the bulk of the
18 contamination as it goes across I-20 and goes into the
19 private residential well fields. We think the base of
20 it is somewhere around this area, below 50 feet, maybe
21 60 feet, as we prepared geophysical logs.

22 Here's another one. Both of these logs
23 were prepared by the US Geological Survey. And it's
24 estimated that our contact is somewhere in here between
25 the two aquifers. What we've noticed between wells

1 completed above and below in the two sands is that we
2 have water level elevations of up to two feet
3 difference. So we know that the interval that separates
4 those two is actually pretty good as far as water levels
5 and flow.

6 What's happening, we think, is so far as
7 the chromium plume is moving across in the Ogallala, as
8 it intersects with private wells that are sand-packed or
9 screened up into both aquifers, that provides a vertical
10 drain den for it to migrate downward then to the Trinity
11 aquifer, the lower one.

12 So as we move across we will be using this
13 data to assess what the total impact is.

14 And this is -- especially sitting in the
15 back, is pretty difficult. What we propose at this
16 point is a series of wells, monitoring wells that we
17 will be installing. Here right on the south end of this
18 residential area, along 112 and 114, those wells we want
19 to look at to see if both Ogallala and the Trinity are
20 equally contaminated at that point. Because that
21 changes, obviously, how we will do the cleanup out here
22 at the site. If they're not, then it may give us some
23 hope for expediting the cleanup, if this is a funneling
24 Superfund site.

25 We have other wells we proposed in this

1 area to see what kind of impact from the pumping on
2 these other private wells. As we move down to 120, down
3 here across and all the way to the toe of the plume,
4 we'll be looking at what the distribution of chromium is
5 in the two aquifers, to assess what the impact is from
6 the private wells.

7 We have a preliminary agreement with
8 Midland County to access the right-of-ways on the county
9 roads, so when we start the well installation program,
10 you will see our rigs. That's where we'll be installing
11 the wells out there in that area.

12 As we start to fill this in, we may be
13 coming to private landowners to ask for access to
14 install wells. But for now, we're going to try to
15 install them on the right-of-ways to give us a broad
16 perspective on what this plume is doing.

17 We also have been talking with TxDOT,
18 Texas Department of Transportation, to access the
19 service roads along I-20. What we're interested in here
20 is whether the high concentrations of chromium, do they
21 start south of I-20 or do they start north of I-20?
22 Because at this point, we don't have anything high
23 enough or equally high in concentration from the south
24 and north side of I-20. So we're interested to see what
25 has happened, whether we have a contributing source from

1 the north side or maybe there's another source that's
2 present south of I-20.

3 We're also going to be looking to the area
4 to the north of what the Lear property is. There, we
5 want to start accessing on City of Midland
6 right-of-ways, if we can work out an agreement with
7 them. We're still talking with them about the kind of
8 insurance and identification requirements. So if we can
9 get access through there, we will be installing a series
10 of wells along the north end there, to see what kind of
11 chromium contamination, if any, is migrating into the
12 area; and if it isn't, then maybe that we've got, at
13 least, the top end of the source area identified for
14 that area.

15 As we get all this data, we will be
16 sharing this with you, as well, updating our site maps.
17 And then we'll be going to the next round of well
18 installation. Hopefully, we'll start to find the source
19 area that we can identify.

20 Now, there's some -- I will show you some
21 other a little bit more close up. The overall project
22 schedule, what we're trying to accomplish is try to
23 complete it toward the end of 2012.

24 The number of factors that can influence
25 the schedule, and we'll update this as we go through the

1 project is, one, do we find more than one source area,
2 is there just one source area; getting access agreements
3 to install wells and collect the data, because a lot of
4 this will start to be on private property and we'll have
5 to work with the landowners to get that access. And
6 then, of course, also, the cost for the project itself.

7 We already have funding for this project,
8 so we can start our well installation. We can continue
9 on with the sampling of the wells. Obviously, if this
10 starts to expand into multiple source areas, if we start
11 to have a large number of monitoring wells that we need
12 to increase, that could impact the budget and how the
13 project completion works out.

14 The feasibility study would be March
15 of 2013, and this is the target for us, is having a
16 Record of Decision, which is a summary of all the data,
17 the risk assessment, who the source area is, as well as
18 how the site can be cleaned up and what the cost is.
19 And so that's the goal is for 2013.

20 As we go through the project and we
21 have -- if there's issues that affect that schedule,
22 then we'll adjust accordingly and keep everyone
23 up-to-date.

24 I want to talk a little bit about the
25 community involvement activities. As we go through this

1 process, there's going to be -- the terminology, the
2 data. We have a couple of ways to assist the community
3 advisory group. One is through the Technical Assistance
4 Services For Communities and the Technical Assistance
5 Grant. We have used both of these mechanism in the
6 Superfund sites here in Texas.

7 The cost for the Technical Assistance
8 Services, essentially, we have a contract and we have a
9 contractor that can provide independent support for the
10 community group. They're not the contractor that works
11 for me doing the field work out there and collecting the
12 data and writing the reports. What they do is they can
13 provide explanations. They can help you understand the
14 data, help you understand the process, the technologies
15 involved. So it's like an independent contractor, but
16 we pay for them, and they can provide support to the
17 community group, as well. So that's one way. We've
18 done this on a couple of projects. I know that their
19 contract is expiring in May or June. There will be
20 another one, and then we'll private fund it. So that's
21 an option to help the community understand the process.

22 The contact is here. And June has summary
23 sheets for both of these mechanisms to provide support
24 to your community. The contact is Donn Walters. He's
25 in our EPA Region 6 office.

1 Like I said, June has the sheets. That
2 way, you won't have to copy them down. And you can
3 contact them directly to find out more about trying to
4 get these assistance grants.

5 And the other one is a Technical
6 Assistance Grant. It's a little more -- has a little
7 more administrative requirements. Typically requires
8 some percent matching contribution, either from the
9 citizens or in-kind services. So we provide bulk
10 funding, and then the community will do something as far
11 as organization. There has to be a true group forum,
12 because there is administrative and reporting
13 requirements of how that money is spent. However, it
14 allows the community group to hire their own independent
15 expert. And it's not an EPA contact. So there's a
16 benefit there to the community group that can go hire
17 whoever they want to, but there is reporting
18 requirements to ensure that the money is spent on those
19 activities. So it's a trade-off between someone having
20 to do paperwork versus less paperwork on that.

21 So there's -- this is the other option.
22 And Janetta Coats in our EPA office is the contact for
23 that. Again, it's on the sheet, so you can contact her
24 and talk with her about the procedures for one of these.

25 So that's a quick summary of where we

1 stand. Right now, the schedule is we're planning to
2 start installing monitoring wells early in May, assuming
3 we have all of our access agreements in place. We'll be
4 installing those wells at this project, and when we're
5 done, we should be moving over to Midessa and start
6 installing wells there.

7 As we sample the wells and get the data
8 back, then we will reassess where we are as far as
9 source areas and the extent of the plume, adjust the
10 well locations and go back out for another round of well
11 installation. So we've got quite a few activities
12 planned already for this year, and we'll just keep
13 taking one bite at a time until we find the source and
14 the responsible parties and we'll take it from there.

15 Yes, ma'am?

16 RESIDENT: So going back to where you were
17 doing your monitoring wells and where you're going back
18 to the west, I'm sure you're probably aware that we have
19 a draw that runs down on the west side of Midland and
20 comes down and --

21 (Reporter admonition to speak up)

22 MR. MALOTT: She asked if you could speak
23 up some.

24 RESIDENT: I'm sure that you're aware of
25 (inaudible) to do monitoring wells to the west of the

1 plume, that we have a draw that runs through the west
2 side of Midland and down across Interstate 20 and back
3 toward this area. At some point, if you're detecting
4 any kind of chromes, will y'all be actually looking at
5 that as a source?

6 MR. MALOTT: Well, we'll be -- you mean
7 outside of this plume area here?

8 RESIDENT: Yes, sir.

9 MR. MALOTT: Well, if the -- the wells so
10 far are planned within the plume area. So --

11 RESIDENT: Okay.

12 MR. MALOTT: -- at this point, there's not
13 an effort or a plan to expand outside this current --
14 the plume.

15 RESIDENT: Is there a way to tell, at this
16 point, and obviously maybe not, if the migration is
17 coming from the west, northwest, or possibly from the
18 west?

19 MR. MALOTT: Well, we'll have water level
20 data that we'll be using to build our flow maps and
21 eventually the groundwater flow model for this area, and
22 from there they will be using particle tracking to look
23 at how the source migrated from where it was to
24 essentially the plume it is now, using flow velocities
25 as well as the characteristics of the aquifer that we

1 built as we collect data from these monitoring wells and
2 the geophysical logging.

3 RESIDENT: Thank you.

4 RESIDENT: She was just saying it's where
5 they just put in that I-20 wildlife refuge or whatever.
6 It's a little bit -- that's what it's called.

7 MR. MALOTT: Further west?

8 RESIDENT: They just funded that deal, and
9 they're fixing to -- it's for bird watching and this and
10 that, and that's where she's talking about. It's just a
11 main draw that -- it's kind of a retention basin for
12 rainwater.

13 MR. MALOTT: Well, one of the things that
14 hampers us through an investigation is when we look at
15 the database, not all the private wells we have records
16 of. So if you have a record from the well driller who
17 installed the wells in this area, and you can share it
18 with us, that's great. A lot of times, if you don't
19 have records, we have to guess, make some assumptions.

20 The more well records that we have for an
21 area, the better off we are, as far as assessing how
22 those individual wells impact the plume or why
23 concentrations differ between neighbors on individual
24 wells.

25 Yes, ma'am, in the back?

1 RESIDENT: I just wanted to add that
2 Schlumberger has another plant on the other side of 80,
3 and twice a week, they release a ton of water that goes
4 running down Comanche Street and then crosses over to
5 the draw in which Mrs. King was just talking about.

6 MR. MALOTT: Okay.

7 RESIDENT: And I would like to see y'all
8 check into why they are releasing all that water twice a
9 week, and enough to almost float a car down Comanche
10 Street, and it runs into this draw that she's talking
11 about and out towards us.

12 MR. MALOTT: We will follow up and check.

13 RESIDENT: I have several questions. Can
14 I continue?

15 MR. MALOTT: Yes.

16 RESIDENT: How fast did you say the plume
17 is moving right now?

18 MR. MALOTT: Well, that's a good question.
19 We don't know the plume itself. All I have is data
20 that's been provided by other facilities. And so there,
21 I think they estimated something 60 plus feet per year.
22 And Schlumberger, I believe, the estimate was 120 feet
23 per year.

24 For comparison purposes in Odessa, we see
25 average velocities in the hundred to 120 feet per year

1 for essentially the same sequence. There, the Ogallala
2 is unsaturated. The Trinity is essentially all but
3 saturated. So for the chrome sites that we have in
4 Odessa, we have very similar flow velocities. So it's
5 pretty similar between the two areas, even though
6 they're separated by quite a few miles.

7 RESIDENT: Is it affected by rainwater at
8 all?

9 MR. MALOTT: Well, the water levels are
10 affected by the rainfall.

11 RESIDENT: But I mean, the movement of the
12 plume?

13 MR. MALOTT: Well, the flow velocity
14 itself is dependent on both the gradient, as well as the
15 characteristics of the sand aquifer itself. We will run
16 some pump tests to get a better idea. Because one of
17 the things that could be affecting it is obviously some
18 really high pumping demands on private wells or even
19 some of the public wells. That could change some of the
20 flow velocities, and that is something that we will be
21 looking at, as well, because that will impact our flow
22 model and exactly how the plume came to be in the
23 current position it is.

24 RESIDENT: Midland has told us that they
25 don't have water for us, so if y'all come in with a

1 Superfund, how are we supposed to get water to go in the
2 site?

3 MR. MALOTT: Well, we have the same
4 answer. There is not sufficient water supply to this
5 date for this area. It doesn't mean that we won't keep
6 asking. At some point, as we go through developing the
7 alternatives for preventative exposure to the chromium
8 plume, it's something we continue to follow up with the
9 City of Midland. Obviously, it's not our water supply.
10 We can ask and we can coordinate with them, but it is
11 their city, and so I don't have any special powers to --

12 RESIDENT: So y'all can't sue the City?

13 MR. MALOTT: No.

14 RESIDENT: Okay. Because I had heard
15 rumor that you would sue the City to get us water.

16 MR. MALOTT: We can pursue responsible
17 parties for the contamination, but not the City. That's
18 where our portion ends.

19 RESIDENT: Right. If you can find who did
20 it?

21 MR. MALOTT: Right.

22 RESIDENT: Realistically, then, it's not
23 going to be in our lifetime, the cleanup?

24 MR. MALOTT: No, the cleanup -- her
25 question was, in her lifetime, I guess, cleanup of the

1 total groundwater plume. Well, there's really two
2 factors on this. One, is whether that's all the plume
3 there is. Two, if the cleanup standards change, so if
4 an NCL will be lowered, let's say it's dropped to
5 10 micrograms per liter instead of 100.

6 And what we've tried to do here on this
7 map, just for reference, because we don't know if there
8 is going to be a change in the hexavalent standard for
9 chromium or whether it would stay at a hundred, what
10 we've tried to do is plot both the 5 and the
11 10-microgram per liter, just to show you what the
12 greater extent of that contamination is.

13 If we had to clean up the entire plume,
14 yes, it would be decades on the cleanup itself. It
15 would be a very expensive project if it was a funding
16 project. Again, hopefully we find a responsible party.
17 But we'll see.

18 RESIDENT: So basically, what is the plan?
19 To get anything that's over a hundred? Is that your
20 remediation, your cleanup?

21 MR. MALOTT: Well, that's -- I'm trying to
22 kind of lay the framework, but that would be contained
23 in the Record of Decision in the proposed plan,
24 explaining our cleanup. Right now, the drinking water
25 limit is 100. So that -- for planning purposes, that's

1 what we work with.

2 However, because they are reassessing the
3 hexavalent chromium, that's why we're looking at a
4 larger area than just the hundred. So for example, this
5 is the boundary of the hundred micrograms per liter.
6 Yet, total detections have been all the way down to
7 here, and that's at five. So we will continue to
8 investigate as if we may have a larger plume. And if
9 the standard doesn't change or the draft assessment
10 doesn't change the numbers that we're looking at, well,
11 you know, we still have the data. But we'll proceed
12 ahead.

13 RESIDENT: I was reading on your site
14 about the -- I can't remember where it's at, but the
15 plating company that the United States Coast Guard have
16 by one of the rivers, and you guys have just released a
17 study of two years of a trench where you dug it and put
18 the iron fillings in there, and it actually stopped the
19 hexavalent chromium. Is that a consideration that you
20 could do for the people that aren't --

21 MR. MALOTT: I believe that was in South
22 Carolina at a Coast Guard facility. That's one of the
23 technologies that you can use, and it's called a -- it's
24 essentially a treatment zone or a treatment wall. And
25 it converts the hexavalent to trivalent chromium as the

1 groundwater flows through a specially-constructed wall.
2 Essentially, it still has the same permeability or the
3 ability for water to pass through that wall as it does a
4 regular aquifer.

5 One kind of a drawback for this area and
6 what we're seeing is that because the water is so hard,
7 we have a lot of other material in that groundwater.
8 The concern is going to be whether that reactive wall
9 starts to plug up, with time. We have seen cases where
10 the wall performance degrades between eight and ten
11 years after installation. So there's some drawbacks
12 with going with that approach. It is something that we
13 would look at or consider during our screening approach
14 with the technologies, and maybe there's something
15 better by that point. But it is a passive approach,
16 though.

17 RESIDENT: Thank you.

18 MR. MALOTT: Yes?

19 RESIDENT: I know you said you were
20 60 feet per year or 120 feet per year.

21 MR. MALOTT: Right.

22 RESIDENT: Is it -- I guess I live further
23 to the west. Do I need -- is it going to continue -- is
24 it going to just go south or is it spreading out?

25 MR. MALOTT: Well, essentially what you

1 see here is the flow direction from, you know, from the
2 sampling data itself. We don't have, obviously, the
3 monitoring --

4 RESIDENT: So we don't know if it's
5 spreading wider?

6 MR. MALOTT: Well, as you can see here,
7 it's spread out in this area. There's a lot of pumping
8 demand in that area. So the more pumping wells we have,
9 the more chance it's going to disperse and move away
10 from that central axis or the center line of the plume
11 itself.

12 RESIDENT: It's basically like taking a
13 straw and a big, like a plate of water. And if we quit
14 using the water as much and we're over there on the west
15 and you guys start using it more, then it's going to
16 continue.

17 RESIDENT: That's what I wonder. I don't
18 have it right now. I'm out of that plume right now to
19 the side of it, but that doesn't mean that I'm --

20 MR. MALOTT: Right. And so we've got --
21 we actually have the one well in the flank there to see
22 whether we have -- again, we don't know if it's a
23 uniform movement between both the Ogallala and the
24 Trinity. As the plume crosses I-20, if there's higher
25 concentrations on the other side, what we see is the

1 bulk of the contamination is in the Ogallala. And then
2 as it moves in to the private wells, likely starts to
3 have that mixing. But we'll need to assess exactly how
4 badly the Trinity has been impacted.

5 RESIDENT: Mr. Malott, while we're still
6 on this water subject, why two bottles on some and one
7 bottle on some, on the testing?

8 MR. MALOTT: On the big bottles or the
9 little bottles?

10 RESIDENT: Why would there be a little
11 bottle and a big bottle on some wells and just a big
12 bottle on the other wells?

13 MR. MALOTT: Well, the hexavalent chromium
14 analysis does not go back to our contract or lab.

15 RESIDENT: So why didn't you test my well
16 for hexavalent chromium?

17 MR. MALOTT: Well, sir, next time we
18 change -- what's the concentration?

19 RESIDENT: But what's the criteria if
20 you're looking to see where the plume is going, as far
21 as the hexavalent chromium? Or is that red dot just
22 based on -- or that red thing just based on total?

23 MR. MALOTT: It's based on total, not
24 hexavalent.

25 RESIDENT: I see.

1 RESIDENT: Sir, you were talking a while
2 ago about you had interest in some of the companies that
3 you were looking in. The Wood Group came up. Do they
4 have a large concentration of chromium or is it
5 follicles? What do you have?

6 MR. MALOTT: No, it's trivalent.

7 RESIDENT: It's trivalent?

8 MR. MALOTT: Right. And that plume is --
9 it's on the other map, but you may not be able to see it
10 from there. It's really confined to this area up in
11 here.

12 RESIDENT: Another question and we're
13 looking -- everybody is looking at this, and there's
14 been all finger pointing toward Schlumberger. Is there
15 anything, at this point, that you would be able to see
16 that Schlumberger had that much chromes that you would
17 even consider that?

18 MR. MALOTT: Well, again, the site was
19 listed as a plume with no defined source area. So we're
20 starting with that, that we don't know the source.

21 Again, at this point, the reason we have
22 the question marks separating the chromium contamination
23 that we have detected in this area versus the areas
24 south of I-20 is the differences. So in this case,
25 there's a well with over three milligrams per liter.

1 The well up here has a little over -- well, it's a
2 little over .1 milligram per liter. So we don't see the
3 high concentrations north of I-20. And it's something
4 we will be looking at. Again, is it because
5 everything's migrated out, the wells are not in the
6 right spot, or they're not screened in the right
7 interval, for comparison purposes? Or is it because
8 we've got multiple source areas and we've got an area to
9 the north and maybe an area to the south? What's not
10 clear is how these relatively low concentrations, do
11 they actually go all the way across I-20? Do they enter
12 in that area or is there other areas that we haven't
13 seen yet with high concentrations that just hasn't been
14 detected?

15 It's really -- the chrome sites that we
16 have in Odessa, we don't see the source areas where it's
17 just essentially very low levels. We always see at
18 least some wells that have high concentrations similar
19 to what's in the rest of the plume. And so right now,
20 we're going to be looking to see if we can find those
21 high concentrations north of I-20.

22 RESIDENT: So what we're seeing is no
23 source area, everything kind of gets slowed down, and we
24 get in a funding bottleneck. Correct me if I'm wrong,
25 please, if we find the source area, then money comes in

1 from them, which hastens cleanup. No source area, no
2 money, no water from Midland, because obviously they're
3 running a big old pipeline out 191, and I don't even
4 know where my County Commissioner is at.

5 RESIDENT: Right here.

6 RESIDENT: Excellent. What's going on
7 with our --

8 COMMISSIONER: I can't answer you anything
9 about the City of Midland, because that's a different
10 entity. A lot of guys -- I have been talking to some of
11 the council members and the mayor, but that's the best
12 thing I can do.

13 RESIDENT: How often is this brought up?

14 COMMISSIONER: It's brought up pretty
15 often. As a matter of fact, I just met with some of
16 them yesterday.

17 RESIDENT: Yesterday, the day before this
18 meeting? I got my well results the week before this
19 meeting. I got my well tested a day before this
20 meeting. And then what happened in the four months
21 prior?

22 No, I'm really just kind of frustrated.
23 I'm sorry if it sounds like aggravation. But I'm just
24 really frustrated, and I'm not getting any good answer.
25 This is the same answers I got at our TCEQ meeting. God

1 bless them. They did a great job, but I'm just...

2 MR. MALOTT: Well, the sampling results
3 that we saw from November-December, we didn't see,
4 really, a change in the plume from what had been
5 detected earlier. That's why we're sampling again to
6 see if there's a change in the plume before we start the
7 monitoring well installation.

8 So the private well data provides a
9 starting point for us to start installing monitoring
10 wells to assess what the plume looks like.

11 RESIDENT: And Mr. Malott, why wasn't my
12 well tested for hexavalent chromium?

13 MR. MALOTT: I don't know where your
14 well is.

15 RESIDENT: I can break down my magnifying
16 glass or we can blow it up big on the screen and I could
17 point at it. You know, with TCEQ it was a big deal
18 about confidentiality, so I don't know.

19 MR. MALOTT: Well, after the meeting, let
20 me know your address and we can see where the -- where
21 your address is and figure something out.

22 RESIDENT: Okay. I'm concerned. I don't
23 even know if I can water my garden or what.

24 RESIDENT: Yeah. Is there any studies --
25 do you guys have any studies on the plants? I mean, I

1 know you have it in the soil, but what about our
2 gardens?

3 MR. MALOTT: Well, the Texas Department of
4 Health Services will look at that issue, as well.
5 There's been questions about the chromium in pecan
6 crops, vegetable gardens. You know, the material
7 safety -- they've actually talked to some folks at Texas
8 A&M. And please feel free to talk with them and they
9 can give you what they found out.

10 Basically, the hexavalent, when you do the
11 analysis, it shows up as trivalent, and so the chromium
12 is in a more benign form than the hexavalent. So it's
13 really difficult to assess whether there has been any
14 impact at all.

15 In the concentrations that may impact a
16 pecan tree, likely we see the tree itself suffering as
17 far as the growth and appearance itself.

18 RESIDENT: If your plants are affected,
19 what will you see? Are they yellowing? Do they grow in
20 a deformed shape? Odd-shaped fruit? I mean...

21 MR. MALOTT: I don't know about that. I
22 don't have that kind of information. Probably more
23 focused on what's happening in the soil, if the wind is
24 blowing dust in the soil and exposing the pathway.
25 Obviously, hexavalent chromium from an exposure

1 standpoint, an inhalation is a primary concern, so that
2 would be another way to be exposed besides just --

3 RESIDENT: I'm sure when we take a shower
4 in the winter and we're breathing it in --

5 (Reporter admonition to speak up)

6 RESIDENT: You know, yeah, when we take a
7 shower with hot water in the winter, you're breathing it
8 in. But you know, you guys talk about these maximum
9 limits that you have. And I know the last time you
10 raised the chromium was, what, '91, '92? Last time
11 y'all --

12 MR. MALOTT: It was raised from 50 to 100.

13 RESIDENT: Right, in '91, '92? It's been
14 a while. But I mean, yeah, you know, we ingest this.
15 It's not like -- for us, it's not okay, we have come in
16 contact with a big amount of it and then we walk away
17 and we're not exposed. We are being exposed every day,
18 day in and day out. This is long-term exposure. And
19 I've been looking over the rat studies, you know. And
20 when asked, you know, is there any health affects for
21 us, and it's like, oh, well, you know, we have
22 gastrointestinal stuff, that's not what your lab rats
23 are saying. That's not what your tests are saying. You
24 guys are seeing cancer increases that you are not
25 forthcoming about to us. You can find it if you dig and

1 you work and you spend hours looking for it, but you
2 guys have done several studies. The studies are out
3 there. So I mean, we're getting it in our soil, we're
4 getting it in our water, we're drinking it. But we're
5 not just getting exposed and walking away. It's day in
6 and day out.

7 But as far as even the plants, I mean,
8 there's -- look at all the sites in Odessa alone.
9 They've been there for a long time. It just seems like
10 you guys would have more stuff. You've got plenty of
11 ample opportunity. I mean, there's lots of dirty spots
12 that you have had for years. Why aren't some of our tax
13 dollars going to study this stuff?

14 MR. MALOTT: Well, and part of the -- is
15 the right analysis of the plant tissues themselves, how
16 you detect the hexavalent chromium. The cases they have
17 seen so far where they analyzed the plant tissue is
18 showing up as trivalent. So the plants are converting
19 the chromium to that state. So the exposure is
20 different through a plant tissue.

21 It is a very difficult analysis in order
22 to get a true assessment of what the health impact is.

23 RESIDENT: (Inaudible.)

24 (Reporter admonition to speak up)

25 THE INTERPRETER: Can she repeat the

1 question, please?

2 MR. MALOTT: She had a question on what is
3 the -- what is the level of chromium that the plants are
4 being exposed to. And I don't have that information.
5 But I mean, the researchers at Texas A & M --

6 RESIDENT: The studies I was looking at,
7 they were only like 200 parts per billion, where we're
8 looking at our neighbors with over 5,000 parts per
9 billion.

10 RESIDENT: Well, it was supposed to be the
11 ones that they are actually injecting the rats and stuff
12 with that. (Inaudible.)

13 MR. MALOTT: And as far as the health
14 affects, that's -- that's outside my area of expertise.
15 I would imagine it would be contained in the assessment
16 coming out on the hexavalent chromium, and then also the
17 representatives from Texas Department of Health
18 Services.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can speak with
20 you after the meeting, if you like, and discuss with you
21 what you like.

22 RESIDENT: We're talking about all the
23 dangers and the health problems existing to all of us.
24 Many of us are sick. Many of us have lost animals and
25 are still losing animals, and it's getting worse by the

1 day. It's not getting better. It's getting worse.

2 Have y'all had any data? I know that EPA
3 does data. I know the Health Department does data. CDC
4 has done data. Have y'all gone to any of your national
5 laboratories and have you sent any samples to any of the
6 national laboratories to give us an answer in what
7 really is the situation here and how it can be dealt
8 with?

9 MR. MALOTT: An analysis of what kind of
10 samples?

11 RESIDENT: Your water, your soil,
12 whatever.

13 MR. MALOTT: Well, the water samples goes
14 through the EPA Houston laboratory or the EPA contract
15 laboratory on that. That's who does the analysis for
16 us.

17 RESIDENT: Do you have any data at all or
18 can you get me data from any of your national
19 laboratories, like Sandia or some of them -- you've got
20 one on the eastern seaboard, you have got one in
21 California that might help give people data on what they
22 possibly would need.

23 MR. MALOTT: And I'm not quite sure on the
24 kind of data that you're looking for. Data from the
25 groundwater sample?

1 RESIDENT: From the groundwater samples,
2 from the actual soil samples of what has been happening.

3 MR. MALOTT: The soil samples will be part
4 of the investigation when we assess what the impact is
5 to residential yards, from just using historic use of
6 the high concentrations in water wells. The water
7 samples themselves, though, go through our own
8 laboratory program. So the analysis that you're
9 provided on these wells is through either the Houston
10 lab or through our contract program.

11 RESIDENT: One more question, sir. Is it
12 possible, you know, I know that you -- that the chromium
13 levels can be detected in the blood. So I mean, we've
14 got the Health Department here for people that are -- I
15 was wondering why the Health Department hasn't offered
16 to test the people to see if they have chromium in their
17 blood, if they're concerned, the people that feel like
18 they might be getting sick from this?

19 MR. MALOTT: And I couldn't explain that,
20 but Tina can. Tina?

21 MS. TINA WALKER: We thought about doing
22 biological sampling, because a lot of information you
23 read says you can test hair, blood, urine for chromium.
24 The problem is that it doesn't tell you that the only
25 result you get is Chromium III. So there is no way to

1 do biological samples as to how much hexavalent chromium
2 you're exposed to, because once it reaches the body, it
3 converts to III. And so when you do a biological
4 sample, it just gives us III.

5 RESIDENT: Yeah, but if you have a hundred
6 times the normal limit of trivalent --

7 MS. TINA WALKER: That's part of the
8 problem, too. Because your body has to have Chromium
9 III to process protein, sugars and fats. And so it's --

10 RESIDENT: It's not in huge quantities.

11 MS. TINA WALKER: In some people, it is,
12 because you can get it from a lot of different sources.
13 And I understand what you're saying and I'm not saying
14 that you're wrong.

15 What I'm saying is that it's hard to find
16 a lab that will do biological sampling for -- if someone
17 is looking for hexavalent chromium, because they're
18 going to give us total chromium. I mean, that's all
19 they're going to do.

20 RESIDENT: All I'm saying is maybe if you
21 guys would ask us -- like, for example, they've lost
22 several pets. I mean, you know, maybe they're willing
23 to have a necropsy to find out.

24 MS. TINA WALKER: We can't do animals.
25 We've had issues with other sites and you can't --

1 RESIDENT: Well, you guys need to change
2 your way of thinking, because this whole world is just
3 getting more and more polluted. There's hardly anywhere
4 you can go anymore that there is safe drinking water.
5 It's not getting any better. So you guys have to come
6 out and start changing and look. I mean, we're killing
7 our planet, and it's not getting any cleaner. So you
8 guys have got to come up and start changing your
9 standards so you can start being more progressive in
10 keeping up with the filth that we've all put in our
11 planet. I'm ashamed to be a person, most of the time.

12 RESIDENT: And with Cindy and Brian --
13 with Cindy and Brian, I can't remember the last dog that
14 I buried in the last five years from natural causes.
15 It's all been some funky cancer. Not old dogs, young
16 dogs, old dogs. They're out there laying in it and
17 they're drinking it.

18 MS. TINA WALKER: And I do hear what
19 you're saying. And we have the same problem at another
20 one of the sites we're working on. Because we are the
21 Health Department and we are dealing with people, they
22 will not let us deal in the animals. We've tried at
23 this other site to try to get them hooked up with people
24 that are willing to test the animals, and maybe that's
25 something that we need to look at here. The Health

1 Department can't do it, but there are people out there
2 who are willing to look at it. And we can try to work
3 with you to see if we can get them tested. But the
4 Health Department can't do it.

5 RESIDENT: Well, what have you learned
6 from wherever you go, whatever you guys learn, it's
7 going to help other people later on when they get
8 contaminated soil, water, air?

9 MS. TINA WALKER: I agree with you,
10 because it -- like in the other site that we're working
11 on, the question was are the animals acting as sentinels
12 for human health? And so it took us several years to
13 find somebody outside of the Health Department that
14 would come in and start looking at the animals. There
15 has just now been -- it's been six years since I first
16 started trying to get people to look at it.

17 RESIDENT: The plants, the animals, all of
18 it --

19 MS. TINA WALKER: No, I understand. We
20 want to get a whole picture. You want to look at
21 everything. I do understand that.

22 RESIDENT: Well, it would just be so much
23 more beneficial for y'all in the future.

24 MS. TINA WALKER: It would be beneficial
25 for everybody.

1 RESIDENT: When they looked at the plague,
2 they were testing the animals.

3 RESIDENT: I just want to know what else
4 you've got to put before us tonight?

5 MR. MALOTT: That's it as far as the
6 information that I have for you. So it's strictly
7 question and answer.

8 RESIDENT: Okay. I just wondered if you
9 had anything else you needed to do.

10 MR. MALOTT: I've said mine, other than
11 explaining something I've said before.

12 RESIDENT: Okay.

13 RESIDENT: Did you change the numbers,
14 like the test well numbers? Will our well number still
15 be the same as it was with TCEQ?

16 (Reporter admonition to speak up)

17 MR. LUIS VEGA: Folks, we want to have the
18 court reporter write all of your questions down so we
19 can document it. That's why I'm trying to run around
20 here.

21 RESIDENT: I want to know if y'all changed
22 the identification numbers to our wells or are they
23 still the same?

24 MR. MALOTT: All the well numbers have
25 stayed the same. We have added new well numbers as

1 we've come across wells.

2 One of the things that we found is that
3 we'll go to a home that's now vacant, phone number
4 doesn't work where we can't get hold of the resident
5 that used to be there or who owns the property.

6 So we also find that there are multiple
7 wells on some properties. So we've actually been
8 assigning new numbers for those ones, because that gives
9 us a point of reference then for other potential
10 pathways for migration.

11 There's also been some location for us to
12 do a geophysical log and find additional there.

13 RESIDENT: So you're saying my well number
14 is the same as it was with TCEQ when we started in '09?

15 MR. MALOTT: We can check the record.

16 RESIDENT: Because we've been consistent
17 where they've tested all the way through.

18 MR. MALOTT: We used a database that was
19 developed by TCEQ and, of course, they built on to it.

20 RESIDENT: The obvious reason I asked is,
21 on the map, I couldn't find our well number.

22 MR. MALOTT: Okay.

23 RESIDENT: How many more test wells are
24 you going to do prior to --

25 MR. MALOTT: Well, I don't have an answer.

1 And the question is, until we know the source, until we
2 get the plume defined, then we will know we have enough.

3 RESIDENT: How many have they got at this
4 point right now?

5 MR. MALOTT: We have not put in any.

6 RESIDENT: No?

7 MR. MALOTT: Huh-uh. But we have done the
8 first round of sampling the private wells. We are doing
9 another round this week. We have been working with
10 Midland County, the City of Midland, private landowners,
11 TxDOT to get access. And so we have been going through
12 that process.

13 RESIDENT: I was told two different times
14 that they will come out and check mine out and never
15 shows up and never try to call.

16 MR. MALOTT: Okay. When was this?

17 RESIDENT: They called us and said that
18 they would be in town that week and they would test, but
19 they never did test.

20 MR. MALOTT: And was this back in
21 November?

22 RESIDENT: That was the last time.

23 MR. MALOTT: Okay.

24 RESIDENT: November was the last time.

25 MR. MALOTT: All right.

RESIDENT: Right after we had the last meeting down up here, they were supposed to have been out there about a week later and never did.

MR. MALOTT: Okay. Well, if you can stick around a little bit as we end, and we will get that information --

RESIDENT: I will.

MR. MALOTT: -- figure out where you are.

RESIDENT: Yeah, we're outside of -- we're just west of it.

RESIDENT: About a block and a half from
the neighbor right there.

MR. MALOTT: Okay. All right.

RESIDENT: Appreciate it.

MR. MALOTT: Yes?

RESIDENT: One other question, then I quit. I follow on your map that you have up in the north side, by Horseshoe Arena. Is that the pit we're seeing where all that is?

MR. MALOTT: Well, if you're talking about the pit or the caliche pit, that's actually on this piece of property right in here.

RESIDENT: Okay. That's pretty much where
all that is?

MR. MALOTT: That's where the old caliche

1 pit that you see on the aerial photos.

2 RESIDENT: Yes.

3 RESIDENT: (Inaudible.)

4 (Reporter admonition to speak up)

5 MR. MALOTT: If you could speak in the
6 microphone so the court reporter --

7 RESIDENT: It comes right up the edge of
8 there.

9 RESIDENT: I'm just curious, you know,
10 back -- I couldn't tell if that first part of it was up
11 where the old AMF Tuboscope is at. They told me it was.

12 RESIDENT: On the map problems, sir, if
13 you guys turn that sideways, then you can get a bigger
14 map in the mail. You know, you were talking about maybe
15 doing it in two.

16 MR. MALOTT: Yeah, we'll change it where
17 maybe we split the map and show one half in one side and
18 the other half on the other. That would also allow us
19 to enlarge the picture.

20 RESIDENT: And we don't have our web site
21 listed on the flyer or link to the page that you guys
22 are going to be getting to us so we can get updates on.

23 MR. MALOTT: Okay. We'll add that and we
24 will put that link in there, as well. So when we send
25 that back out --

1 RESIDENT: I mean, with TCEQ, they used to
2 send us notifications when they update the site. So
3 maybe that would be something that you could do for us,
4 too.

5 MR. MALOTT: So is that something people
6 want, as well? Because it's a question of what's the
7 best way to share data. So --

8 RESIDENT: The web site, mail-outs,
9 something that -- anything really important coming up.

10 RESIDENT: We're starved for information,
11 basically. We want everything that you have.

12 MR. MALOTT: Yes?

13 RESIDENT: Do you have names with the
14 numbers?

15 MR. MALOTT: We do.

16 RESIDENT: I think that our numbers have
17 been -- instead of listing it as 013, it looks like it's
18 031 on the map.

19 MR. MALOTT: Okay. We can check against
20 that. If you'll leave your information with either
21 Jason or June, and we can check against our records to
22 make sure it's going to the right spot. Any other
23 questions? Yes?

24 RESIDENT: If you do find who did it and
25 you start the cleanup and everything, how long is it

1 going to last or how long will it be or --

2 MR. MALOTT: How long will the cleanup
3 take?

4 RESIDENT: Are y'all going to try to clean
5 it up?

6 MR. MALOTT: Yes, we will try to clean it
7 up. You know, the aquifer is something that's used as a
8 drinking water supply.

9 RESIDENT: The only reason I ask is they
10 told us a while, maybe a year ago, that it would take
11 40, 50, a hundred years to try to clean it up.

12 MR. MALOTT: We don't have an estimate for
13 how long, but it would be decades in order to get
14 something this large. Yes, it would be an extensive
15 cleanup. And again, the plume --

16 RESIDENT: Why can't Midland bring us
17 water?

18 MR. MALOTT: If there's a water supply
19 that we can extend and we can look at what's the best
20 way to deliver that, and we can go from there. Right
21 now I don't have a water supply.

22 RESIDENT: I don't mind paying a water
23 bill.

24 RESIDENT: That goes back to our County
25 Commissioner, County elected officials, ma'am. I'm

1 sorry. I wished I had an answer for you.

2 RESIDENT: We know that, but we know that
3 Midland doesn't have water. But I'm saying bring us
4 water where we can have our own water.

5 MR. MALOTT: Well, if -- and I cannot
6 create a water utility district for you. I can't create
7 that. Someone has to be able to manage the system, if
8 they're going to do a tax, however they're going to fund
9 themselves, whether it's through the rates or tax,
10 whatever. I can -- I can make connections to
11 households, but someone has to have the water.

12 RESIDENT: This goes back to my
13 conversation with you earlier today and a couple of
14 weeks ago, about looking at the source that we
15 discussed, and if it's pliable. We may have a source,
16 folks, within three miles of us. We may have. It's not
17 definitive, but if it's there, you will have the
18 opportunity.

19 I also know a person that's started his
20 own water district and did it for much, much less money
21 than what we've been hearing about in the newspapers,
22 okay? All I can tell you is this is going to be up to
23 Mr. Malott to get somebody out to possibly grant us the
24 water, to see if it's pliable. And then we can make
25 some kind of arrangements as a group to go from there.

1 MR. MALOTT: But again, someone will have
2 to form that utility district if they're going to do
3 that, and how they're going to supply the water.
4 Because what we don't want to do is lay a lot of
5 expensive pipe and make connections and then have no
6 water supply. So there's a lot going on in the other
7 side besides, you know, running it to the property and a
8 well. You have got to make sure someone is going to run
9 that system, and they have to comply with all the
10 regulations of the State as far as a public water
11 supply. Monitoring and testing and recording.

12 So someone's going to have to step up and
13 say, yeah, they want to take on that responsibility.
14 Also, how they're going to pay for it.

15 RESIDENT: When will you be -- are we
16 going to have another meeting in the future? Are you
17 going to kind of stay with us quarterly?

18 MR. MALOTT: We can. We can set up
19 another meeting. Once we have data from the well or
20 something to change and report, we can do it as fact
21 sheets, or maybe expanded fact sheets and give you maybe
22 more detail that way. It just depends on what's the
23 best way. Does somebody want to sit down and read it at
24 their dinner table or do they want to come down to the
25 Midland Center here for a meeting? Some people like it

1 both ways or one or the other.

2 RESIDENT: I'd just like to get all the
3 information that you have in a timely manner, you know,
4 because knowledge is power for us. And I just don't
5 want us to be caught. And I know you can only do so
6 much, but you know, coming today and then not seeing you
7 for eight or nine months is kind of alarming.

8 And I'm sorry, I wish there's a lot of us
9 back here, and I don't -- you know that -- you know how
10 many people are out there.

11 MR. MALOTT: Right.

12 RESIDENT: I don't know why the attendance
13 was better at the Horseshoe than it was here, but it
14 seems like when we come to meetings here, the attendance
15 is never very high. I know everyone is concerned about
16 their water, and I know some people are afraid to speak
17 out.

18 MR. MALOTT: Well, we'll try different
19 ways to do outreach and get the information to people.
20 And we'll find a way that works best for maybe the
21 majority, and maybe there's another way that works best
22 for you.

23 RESIDENT: Maybe you need to look at Skype
24 or something like that.

25 MR. MALOTT: There's always something.

1 RESIDENT: All right. Thank you.

2 MR. MALOTT: Yeah. Well, if there is no
3 other questions -- yes?

4 RESIDENT: Who do you approve of locally
5 to -- if we take our own water sample --

6 MR. MALOTT: I don't approve of any local
7 labs. I can't give you an endorsement. I can't --

8 RESIDENT: Okay. The value of your
9 property, if you're contaminated, it will be low.

10 MR. MALOTT: That's strictly between --

11 RESIDENT: Between the tax people and
12 the --

13 MR. MALOTT: And the Tax Appraisal
14 District. So I'll be here, the representatives from the
15 Texas Department of Health Services will be here, as
16 well as TCEQ. If there's other questions or you want to
17 see maybe where your property is on this map, I will --
18 I'm here, and as long as y'all want to stay or until
19 they close us.

20 RESIDENT: Are these two joined together?

21 MR. MALOTT: Well, that's what we want to
22 find out is exactly how does the chromium that we
23 detected north of I-20 impact what is south? Because
24 the concentrations are so different. It's very high
25 south of I-20, and it's relatively low levels north of

1 I-20. And so we need to understand is that just a small
2 contributor source or is there another larger source
3 that we haven't found yet?

4 RESIDENT: Well, do they run together or
5 is that just separate? There's nothing up --

6 MR. MALOTT: Well, we just don't know how
7 those low concentrations go away or does it increase?
8 So that's one of my things is that we're installing
9 monitoring wells to find out. That's just a really big
10 difference between what's south of I-20 and north of
11 I-20.

12 RESIDENT: Well, I just wondered if it was
13 supposed to run together or what?

14 MR. MALOTT: And that's what we don't
15 know. We don't know.

16 RESIDENT: I guess in a year from now I
17 want to know if it went 60 or 100 feet sideways --

18 MR. MALOTT: We'll have -- we'll have a
19 better idea in what the dispersion is of that plume as
20 it goes out.

21 RESIDENT: We got some literature, but we
22 don't know how to --

23 MR. MALOTT: Sure. I will be happy to go
24 over that.

25 (MEETING CONCLUDED)

1 THE STATE OF TEXAS)

2 COUNTY OF MIDLAND)

3 I, Jane McGill, Certified Shorthand Reporter
4 Number 1759 for The State of Texas, do hereby certify
5 that the facts stated by me in the caption hereof are
6 true, and that I did, in computerized stenotype
7 shorthand, report said proceedings and that the above
8 and foregoing pages contain a full, true and correct
9 computer-assisted transcription of my computerized
10 stenotype shorthand notes taken on said occasion.

11 I further certify that I am neither counsel
12 for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties in
13 the action in which this proceeding was taken, and
14 further that I am not financially or otherwise
15 interested in the outcome of the action.

16 Witness my hand this 15th day of April, 2011.

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JANE MCGILL, CSR

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